

AF 3714B

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q65822

Kaoru WATANABE, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/927,259

Group Art Unit: 3714

Confirmation No.: 4313

Examiner: Mark Alan Sager

Filed: August 13, 2001

For: DISPLAY DEVICE, AND GAME MACHINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an

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English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

Applicant submits the following translation of the pertinent parts of Japanese Patent Publication JP 6-23091A that was cited by the Japanese Examiner in the Office Action:

[0008] It is an object of the invention is to provide a gaming machine having a function of limitedly displaying management data such as a slump graph to a player.

[0016] A gaming machine 1 is a slot machine provided with an LCD screen 2 at a front face thereof. Gaming images 2a corresponding to the rotary drums are displayed on the LCD screen 2. When a coin (gaming value) is inserted into a not-shown slot, a game is activated. Coins are paid out when the player hits the predetermined combination.

[0017] In addition to the LCD screen 2, the slot machine 1 is provided with identification signal inputting means 7, display selecting means 8, display switching means 9, screen switching means 10 and a start lever 10a.

[0020] Memory means 4 receives an output from timer means 6 at a predetermined time interval to store the management data with a time stamp. The memory means 4 is actually constituted by a semiconductor memory and a controller (CPU) for controlling the semiconductor memory, for example. Alternatively, the memory means 4 may be constituted by a memory controlled by control means 5.

[0031] In accordance with the actuation of the display selecting means 8 or the like, desired data among the management data stored in the memory means 4 is displayed on the LCD screen 2 in the various ways as described the above. That is, when the game is not played, a part of the management data which is allowed to be disclosed to the player is displayed under the control of a processor 16. Even during the play of the game, when the preset identification signal (an infrared signal) is not inputted from the identification signal inputting means 7, the management data is displayed with no limit in accordance with the above described operations of the processor 16 and an identification judgment section 17.

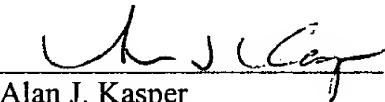
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
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[0032] Therefore, a preferable range of information of the gaming machine can be presented to the player. If the staff of the arcade which manages the slot machine always carries transmitter for outputting an infrared signal, the staff can input the identification signal if the occasion arises.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

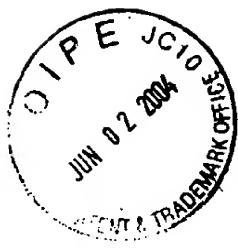


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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

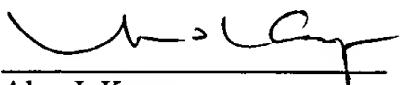
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	09/927,259
		Confirmation Number	4313
		Filing Date	August 13, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Kaoru WATANABE
		Art Unit	3714
		Examiner Name	Mark Alan Sager
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	

Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.